The Best Players of the World-Many Fine Amateurs in America-A Sport Requiring Finesse, A Sure Eye, & Firm Hand and Quickness of Movement.

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of the New York racquet club yesterday. I stepped up to a baizecovered door and peered through the glass oval.

It was close at hand now and, clutching the door, I started back involuntarily. The door sprung open and revealed a herculean person in loose white flannels and weighing probably about 250 pounds. He was reaching for a little white ball which a slender athletic young fellow some twenty feet off kept sending up against the wall at the far end of the court.

And the ball came spinning straight for the door. Just as I ducked the fat man made a lunge with his racquet that narrowly missed decapitating me. He stood palpitating, with decapitating me. He stood palpitating with court. There are two such squares. From perspiration trickling down his face in little that position he serves or hits the ball up rivulets. The slender sinewy man was as cool as though he had been a mere spectator of the

It was a practice game between Prof. Robert Moore and a member of the club that I had in-terrupted. But the Hercules, who overtopped the young English athlete by a head and shoulders, had had exercise enough and, being pumped out," retired to shed his flannels. The instructor then played a little solitaire. Catching the ball lightly on his racquet he sent it spinning from end to end of the 63-foot court half a dozen times at lightning speed, never allowing it to touch the floor, a feat few experts

wont'l care to attempt.

"You see I have to keep my hand in on my own account," he explained. "I'm training for the contest for the championship in March, and I hope to win it, too."

And, catching the little white bail on the

edge of his racquet, he sent it spinning skyward in a true perpendicular. It dropped lightly on his outstretched palm. "Your fat pupil seems to have plenty of running," I remarked.



MOORE AND BOARER. the same as hand ball in that respect, you see; the server can make the other man do all the running. But a clever player won't let himself be used up too quickly. When the match takes place we will have some of the finest racqueters in the world here. Tom Pettit of the Boston club, who is to play Al Wright and myself. championship several years. He has been try-ing to get Saunders, the English champion, to make a match, but has not yet succeeded. Pettit has only been playing racquets a year-in fact since the opening of the Boston club. Wright and I have been at it over seven years. The match will be played in this court about Washington's birthday, under the usual conditions the best of seven games, for a good stake and the championship. Whoever wins will have to meet Latham, the English champion. Should Pettit be the victor he will have to play against Boaker of Quebec, the present American champion, before he can meet Latham. Wright would have to do the same."

"No; I played with Boaker twice last season and beat him. He beat Wright in 1888 and 1889. Boaker's friends say he has retired. He has held the championship eleven years, but I understand he hasn't really surrendered his claim, although his friends in the Quebec club have advised him to do so."

"Why do they want to retire him?" "He is getting old. He must be about thirtyeight or forty, and it's the same in racquet as in other athletic sports-a player is at his before reaching his thirtieth year. After that age he losses in elasticity, and, while he may be stronger, he is slower. But Boaker is still a fine player, although Latham of London is accounted the best in the world. He has held the world's championship for several years, having won it from Joe Gray, who became champion after the death of 'Punch' Fairs, who had held it for seven years. Walter Gray. the brother of Joe, is also one of the famous English players, although he has never been a champion. He competed with Latham after the latter had defeated his brother and was He competed with Latham after beaten in turn. The Gravs were here about seven years ago, and Joe at that time played an exhibition match in the racquet club court here with Boaker, in which the Quebec man won the first three games and Gray took the last four straight. Boaker is a hard hitter and plays with great judgment, never losing his head. He is rather good on the drop. Gray is a slashing player, very brilliant and a hard

hitter all the time. Who are the best amateur American

the last half dozen years, and particularly during the last two or three seasons, racquet has taken a jump into popular favor. Ten years ago it was almost unknown to Americans, but now it presses tennis very closely. The New York club, which is the pioneer, has been followed by the organization of clubs in a number of large cities. Boston has a strong club with a big membership and very fine quarters. The Philadelphia club expects to move into its own home sometime in February. There are two clubs in the Quaker city. Three weeks ago I sent to Chicago the first set of racquets ever used there, and a court has been organized to enable the Chicagoans to mingle a little healthy athletics with their culture. St. Paul has a good court and Foxhall Keene tells me that courts are projected at several of the lead-



THE BROTHERS GRAY. amateurs. B. S. De Garmendia is one who has secured championship honors. He is a cool player and rarely makes a mistake. One of the most surprising players and yet a very clever one is C. O. Perkins of the New York club. He

SKILLFUL ATHLETES.

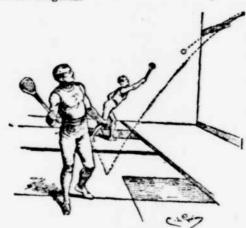
although a novice at the game, shows up wonderfully and will be able to make things look rather funny for Garmendia next year. He plays brilliantly and is one of the coolest men about it I ever saw. Whatever his luck he is never surprised at it. One of the best of our oldish players is Mr. Lydig, who may be said to represent the early school of racqueters. These are beyond question the finest amateurs in the country today.

"I am constantly asked about the cost of equipping clubs in other cities," added Prof. Moore. "If a club has a court the rest is but a trifle. Our courts, as you see, are rather

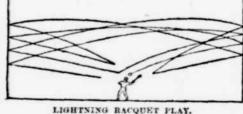
trifle. Our courts, as you see, are rather costly affairs—sheathed walls, markers boxes and the rest of it. But the mere outfit of balls, racquets, rubber shoes and flannels is within the reach of any club. The balls are all imported, although there is no reason why they shouldn't be made here just as well as in England. They cost 6 cents apiece. The racquets are the very best and cost \$4 each. Shoes are about the same figure, and I suppose a club could get flannel suits at \$8 or \$10 apiece.

"There is no better exercise for developing

It was a big man's voice that I the muscle than racquet. It is skill more than heard while up on the second floor strength that is required to make a good of the New York racquet club yesplayer. One has to have all the finesse needed at billiards and at the same time to have muscles strong enough to bear the modicum of fatigue involved in a match. It makes the player quick in all his movements, sure of eye and firm of hand. The exercise is neither too gentle nor too severe and can be modified as much as the player pleases. The rules of the game are simple enough, yet no one could possibly gather what they are from the books published on the subject any more than you can learn to box or play chess from the printed rules. The game is fifteen points up and when the players have reached thirteen apiece the out player or receiver of the service has the option of 'setting' the game-that is, extending it to eighteen points if he chooses. The server stands in a little square on one side of the The regulation court is 63 feet by about 3116 feet. The service line is drawn across it and the space furthest from the wall where the balt is to be hit is divided lengthwise, as shown



IN THE BACQUET COURT. "The out player stands in one of the larger courts on the side opposite to the server and takes the ball as it comes from the wall. He must hit it either before it touches the floor or after it has bounded once from the floor, and return it with his racquet against the wall in the same manner as the server does. The server, on the first play, must make the ball hit the wall above the high service line, which is 10 feet from the floor; if he fails it counts against him. Bad service, failure to return and too low service or too low return are what count in the game as points. Missing the ball while it is in the air or on the first rebound also count against either player. There is a wooden board 20 inches high at the service end of the court close to the floor, and if the ball strikes it the sound is heard at once. This board is called the "tell tale," and to strike it counts a failure. After the opening service, the players are free to serve or return from any point where they can hit the ball to advantage, but the rule of one serving and the other returning is kept up throughout the game. The server always has an advantage over the man on the outside, and as an offset the latter has the option of 'setting' the game an extra three points when the have reached thirteen or fourteen points each. Two, three or four can play in the same game. An average game lasts about a quarter of an hour and seven games constitute a match, which can easily be finished in two hours. To play the game well you have to be in first-class con dition, just as though you were to play billiards. It is in this respect totally unlike box-ing and some other athletic sports, which a man can go into when he is feeling dull for the purpose of waking up and enlivening himself by the exercise."



There are many hundreds of racqueters among the young business men of New York and the roll of the racquet club has on it the names of not a few millionaires—men whose time is largely taken up in Wall street and with banks and railroads. They drop in at the club. put on the flannels for an hour or so and after a bout or two with an instructor or some member get rubbed down and go to business feeling strong enough to face any amount of ordinary fatigue. There are fully three hundred mem bers in the club, and its growth has been so rapid that a committee has been appointed to look out for a site where a great club house is to be built. The present quarters at 34th street and 6th avenue are too small, although the building is a good-sized one and contains two great racquet courts, a gymnasium and a running track overhead. Five lots have been secured in the neighborhood of 43d street and 6th avenue. The new club house will be finished. it is said, before the lease of the present building expires in May, 1891. It will be the finest structure of its kind in the country.

An estimate of the amount that is spent annually by the wealthy business men of the metropolis on physical development alone would seem like a gross exaggeration. It reaches away up in the millions. Fencing. boxing, riding, rowing, tennis, racquet-all have their devotees among the rich. Unlike boating and horse racing they are sports that require personal participation and cannot be done by proxy. A single decade has started the movement that is to make us a nation of

There are many very fine amateurs, Within DON'T HAVE A SPARE ROOM. It is More Prudent to be Crowded in Washington, Don't You Know.

"The house we have engaged is a very pretty single spare room for a guest."

It was a young matron newly come to live at calling upon, a resident of long standing, only laughed at the remark.

"Why," she replied, "you are very fortunate. No one who lives in Washington should have a spare room; nothing could be more undesirble. For, you know, this town is the Mecca of holiday makers; people swarm hither by ing colleges where athletics is a prime feature.

I have no doubt we shall soon hear of then in of the national government and all the wonfull operation at Harvard, Princeton and Yale. ders of cotemporary human interest that it contains. You can never know-if your ex-perience proves to be like that of other people here-when relatives or friends, of whom you know little and for whom you care less, will swoop down upon you, as it were, with a demand for temporary accommodation. It is so the house of a convenient acquaintance with one's family than to stay at Willard's or the Ebbitt. You are in luck if such visitors do not tributed. No wonder the city has been burned alight bag and baggage at your door without warning. They will certainly think nothing of sending you word in advance that they are coming to Washington and would be glad to have you extend an invitation. In such a case what are you going to do? You can do nothing but acquiesce, unless you are so fortunate as to be able to respond: 'Awfully sorry, but we haven't a spare room.'"

"That settles it, of course." "Necessarily. In that simple plea you have ready-made and truthful excuse that can never fail you. Visitors in such a way are among the most painful afflictions conceivable. There is no telling what awaits you when you admit them to your home. I knew a widower and his son once who came to stay two days with some distant relatives and remained affect the delights of country life. widower marrying again and bringing his bride home to the house. And when the owner of the establishment died, leaving the visitors only \$5,000 a year and the life tenantcy of the family mansion, they con-tested the will on the ground of mental aberra-"During the last two seasons several very tion, and, though they never got any more of the players have come to the front among the

other heirs from obtaining a penny. "Goodness me!" "It doesn't do, my dear, to lay yourself open to such casual parasites. When I lived in one is C. O. Perkins of the New York club. He has an awkward guard, but is a wonderful hitter. He never gets into position for a ball and seems sometimes to reverse all the rules of the game, but he hits it all the same. His skill and agility are the means of his success. Ed Lamontaine, jr., is another very hard hitter and is regarded as one of the coming great racqueters of this country. Foxhall Keene,

IN TROPICAL CLIMES.

Among the Care-Free People of Panama.

AN AGE OF CONTRASTS.

The Old City and the New-The Hospitals and Their Need-Water Carriers-From Convent to Theater-Recreations and Amusements.

From The Stan's Traveling Commissioner.

PANAMA, COLOMBIA, 1889. ORE than anywhere else in the two continents this section shows how hard and fast the young America of the north is treading on the heels of the older America of the south. "New" Panama, as it is called, was founded in 1673, within two years after the destruction of the old town, and still shows abundant evidences of its Castilian origin. There are ancient casas of Moorish architecture, as sedate, drowsy and heavily picturesque as any in Grenada or old Castile, central courts inclosed within their enormously thick walls, iron-barred casements, with folding doors of solid wood in lieu of windows and awning-shaded corridors and verandas, while sandwiched between them are young American hotels, stores, saloons, barber shops and boarding houses flaunting gaudy signs in red and gold inscribed "Free Lunch Every Day," "Ten Cents a Shave," "Boston Baked Beans and Clam Chowder," &c.

For two hundred years the sleepy old place had never an inn—not until the California gold fever of '47-49 brought thousands of travelers this way, and then they sprang up by the score. Now the number of hotels is reduced to two or three of the better class and as many more of inferior grade, ranging in price from \$2 to \$3.50 per diem. Though surrounded on three sides by the

WALLED LIKE A FEUDAL CITY. because the experience of its founders with the buccaneers had been so disastrous that they neglected no means of defense for the new capital. The wall, which is now partially destroyed and overgrown by bushes, was originally from twenty to forty feet high, with moat and bastions on its land face, battlements and towers at frequent intervals and mounted with many pieces of cannon. In the early days it was an effectual safeguard against ordinary attack, but would be of little use against modern munitions of warfare. The builders, who had lately lost all at the hands of pirates, spent so much money in the construction of this wall that at last the Spanish king wrote to inquire whether the walls of his expensive colony were being made of silver or of gold.

The Indian word Panama signifies "plenty of fish" and had been bestowed upon the locality long before the arrival of the Spaniards. For more than two centuries, until the comparatively recent period of the overthrow of the Spanish domination, this was one of the most opulent cities in the new world, the key to the Pacific and the great distributing center between Europe and the rich countries of Southern America. When the treasure galleons came sailing into its harbor from Lima and Valparaiso laden with the wealth of conquered nations (to be sent on mule-back across the isthmus to Porto Bello, where the fleet waited to convey it to Spain), the old town blossomed out at its best. Then its harbor was crowded wealthy merchant Castilian grandees, gorge-ously uniformed officers of the army and the government-the flower and chivalry of "New Spain," while balls, bull fights, gaming and exesses of all kinds were the order of the ho

But there have been checks to Panama's prosperity, not least among them being several conflagrations and innumerable visitations of pestilence. Before the year 1756 the town was twice almost totally destroyed by fire, and from that year to 1867 its population seldom exceeded 5,000. The vast floating population that swept through during the feverish days of With the completion of the Isihmian railway second era of permanent prosperity began, and now its population may safely be reckoned at 25,000,

Like all Spanish-American cities, its central feature is an extensive plaza, with fountain not enough. Then the queen threw in the and flowers, surrounded by the most important difices of church and state. Straight through the middle of it runs La Calle de las Monjas, or "STREET OF THE NUNS,"

which sacrilegious Yankees now call Main street. The "paiace" of the bishop faces Panama's plaza and the Cabildo, or government house, where all the business of the municipality is conducted. A big American hotel occupies one side of it and directly opposite, beyond the flowers and the fountain, to be the tallest on the continent, so tall that they indicate to vessels far out at sea the entrance to the bay and port.

The famous sanctuary is almost a fac simile of the grand cathedral in the City of Mexico, being built of stone and stuccoed adobe, at least 200 feet long by 150 feet deep, with floor of square red bricks and roof supported by four rows of massive columns. Inside there are the sual altars and shrines, pictures, confessionals, burning candles, &c., but outside there is marked difference, its towers being set with innumerable round plaques of glass that glitter in the sunshine like so many kohinoors, while standing along its facade, each in hi niche, is a row of colossal saints, all painted dark

There are half a dozen or more other hurches, of course all Roman Catholic and most of them ante-dating the present century. The theater, an enormous structure, oc cupies

AN OLD CONVENT. within whose quiet cloisters during two hun dred years black-robed nuns lived in privation and prayer. Verily this is an age of contrasts! Three years ago it was opened for its present use by Sarah Bernhardt in a series of her in-

imitable performances. Among other prominent buildings may be nentioned the magnificent headquarters of the defunct canal company and the governor's palace, which commands a charming view of the bay and its green islands. The educational institutions of the city comprise several schools conducted by the nuns; the Colejio Esperanza Hope college), for girls, directed and taught one, but really it is so tiny that I haven't a by teachers from the United States; the Colejio single spare room for a guest" schools of lower grade. The most important It was a young matron newly come to live at newspapers published in Panama are the Gathe capital who said it, but the lady she was cela Oficial, the government organ; the Star and Herabl, issued daily in Spanish, French and English, with two weekly editions, and the Chronista, a Spanish sheet,

Unfortunately for Panama there is no ystem of public water works, though an queduct has long been talked of. The inhabit ants are still supplied in the same manner as were their ancestors generations ago, by car-

riers going from house to house. THE BUSINESS OF WATER CARRIER descends from father to son and yields a comfortable living, the only capital required being a donkey and two wooden kegs. When fully equipped the donkey has a keg of water slung each side of him, with a nosegay or bunch of fresh grass stuck in the top of each keg. while the owner sits aft, so near the tail that one marvels how the poor little beast can keep so many times! Besides the great conflagrations in its earlier history it has been partially destroyed by fire no less than seven time within the last seventy years. In 1880 it also suffered a severe shock of earthquake. The pleasure-loving Panamaians are not

RECREATIONS AND AMUSEMENTS. One of the finest military bands in the two Americas plays in the Plaza Major two evenings of every week and on Sunday afternoons. when all the people tarn out to hear. Then there is the Boredas, a popular drive and promenade where ocean breezes may be en-

It is the fashion among all classes to prome nade upon the ramparts near the sunset hour, especially on that part called the Esplanade where the old wall has been widened into boulevard. Besides the unrivaled ocean view on one side, it overlooks, on the other, a level space containing the arsenal barracks and city prisons. And right here on the Esplanade is the best place to study Panamaian life. both high and low. Imagine the beautiful bay, dotted with yachts, bongors and canoes, backed by ships and steamers at anchor, floating the flags of all nations, and beyond, the islands each a mountain green to its summit, some covered with cottages and sanitariums, one a vast cemetery; and others used for coaling and freight stations by the Pacitic mail company

trousers, priests in flowing robes and shovel hate, and bare-footed, gray-cowled friars of the stern order of San Francisco. There are ladies of high degree, their faces partially concealed by mantillas of rich lace, and graceful senoritas of whom one notices nothing but their beautiful eyes, incomparably large, black and liquid, and half-naked Indian women, each with a mahogany-hued baby slung at her back as a tourist carries his satchel. There are easy-going Englishmen and Frenchmen gesticulating like lunatics; aggressive, quick-footed Americans, stolid Germans placidly smoking their pipes and plenty of the always well-dressed and courtly descendants of the conquerors.

THE HOSPITALS OF PANAMA deserve more than passing mention. In Color there are splendid hospitals for the employes of the canal and railway companies, but no refuge for the ailing stranger, except by an arrangement in effect between the government and canal company whereby the latter has set aside ten beds for public use. In Panama, however, one of the finest hospitals is that for foreigners, open to both sexes and all national-ities, supported mainly by voluntary contributions. There are several others sustained b the government and various companies, the most elegant of which was built by the canal people in their flush times at a cost of over five million dollars. It stands on an eminence, in the midst of extensive grounds, surrounded by a beautiful garden with shaded walks and arround

And if ever hospitals were needed in any quarter of the globe it is in Panama, where the popular saying goes that "there are no gray heads," meaning that there are none gray meaning that there are none suffi ciently robust to withstand the diseases epidemic and endemic, indigenous to the climate and brought here by the floating population, till the sere and yellow stage of life. I have listened to two or three stories today which may help illustrate the point. The gentleman who now fills the position of Italian consul is a native of Colombia, because the four who preceded him, all from Italy, followed one another to the grave in quick succession.

A recent minister to Bolivia from the United

States passed his four years safely in the small-pox haunted capital of that country, but on his homeward journey, being compelled to wait three days in Panama for a northbound steamer, his two bright little sons both sickened, died and were buried here.

An Englishman told me that his especial chum died in Panama from sun stroke during

the early days of November. The friends breakfasted together in good health and before evening one was a corpse.

The same gentleman called my attention to a white speck on a distant hillside which, he said, was the tomb of another friend, whom he described as "the jolliest fellow in the world." who landed here one day full of life and vigor, and in an incredibly short time was in his coffin, having been given a bed in which a man had

died of yellow fever only a few days before. It

is needless to muitiply incidents, for everybody knows that Panama is no sanitarium. Following a street that leads out of the plaza and past the cathedral one may find an interesting relic of the past, known as El Postiga de los Monjas, "the Gate of the Monks," an antique archway quaintiy carved and crowned by a watch tower which leads through the moss grown ramparts to the beach. Following the path of the monks of old we find ourselves on a wide expanse of coral reef which, if the tide be out, is alive with shrimps, cuttle-fish, hermit crabs and other forms of deep sea life, and strewn with kelp, marine ferns and mosses, and shells

of curious forms and colors.

Another antiquity that should by no means be neglected is the ruined

CHURCH OF SAN DOMINGO. It was built soon after the founding of the ity and in its day was one of the finest sanctuaries in the new world, possessing an extraordinary store of jeweled vestments, altar service, lamps and images of gold and silver: but more than a century ago it was nearly destroyed with ships from many lands and its streets with in one of the numerous conflagrations. There is an interesting tradition concerning its bells which runs as follows: The church itself was built by the queen of

Spain and the ladies of her court, each contribting to the plous work what money she afford. When the time came for casting bells for it there was nothing left to pay for the metal they should contain. So the zealous queen invited not only her court but people f all classes to come and witness the casting and to contribute thereto. On the appointed day they came in crowds, high and low, rich and poor. When all was ready the queen threw '49 could hardly be counted to Pan ma's credit. handfuls of gold into the great crucible and the ladies and gentlemen of her court did the same, and then the poor followed with donations of silver and copper, greater in quantity but less in value. Thus the amount of metal rapidly increased, but still there was golden ornaments she wore; her ladies did the same; the gallant courtiers cut the silver but tons from their jackets and the buckles from their shoes and the officers wrenched the jeweled handles from their swords. The excite ment grew intense. Rings, bracelets and valuables of all sorts, some of them precious relics and family heirlooms, all went into the crucible, together with buttons of brass and iron and the meaner trinkets of the poor.

And thus the bells of San Domingo were made. It is said that their tone was of the the great cathedral whose twin towers are said | purest; that they were held in great reverence. oth by the priests and by the people, and whenever they were rung all who hear them crossed themselves and said prayer. After the great conflagration those not broken by their fall from the lofty tower were removed to some other church, but certainly not to the cathedral, i the story of their sweet tones be true, for those that clang and clatter above that sanctuary are about the most harshly ear-splitting it has been my misfortune to hear.

Among the notable institutions of Panama, THE GREAT LOTTERY SCHEME

of Messrs. Duque Brothers must not be forgotten. It was established in 1883 under a "concession" from the government, and is patronized by all classes. At the beginning the drawings were monthly, the grand prize being :500. The success of the enterprise was so extraordinary that soon the prize was placed at \$10,000 and drawings appointed for every Sunday. Tickets to the amount of \$50,000 are sold at \$4 each), the sellers receiving 5 percent for their services and the remaining \$20,000 being divided between the government and the Duque

Mr. J. Gabriel Duque, the elder of the firm, a very handsome, well-educated gentleman, probably in the early forties, has lately been ppointed consul general for Nicaragua and olombia. He was born in the United States of Spanish parentage, I think) and has spent auch of his life in Philadelphia, where he was ngaged in business for many years. He says hat when the lottery venture began to flourish. about the time that the canal scheme was in its palmiest days, he invested his gains in Panama real estate, while his brother, wiser than imself, converted his own into United States bonds. "And now," he adds, with a smile, "my brother is living like a lord, in Los Augeles. Cal., while I lead a dog's life here.

Of course we must go over to old Panama "PANAMA LA VIEJA."

a carriage drive of only six miles, and see all that remains of the proud city which received its royal charter in 1521, and after a brilliant existence of only a century and a half was destroyed in a single night by a handful of buc-

Here it was that Pizarro equipped his murderous expedition, and where he and his fellow rascals, Almagro and Zuque, desecrated the sacrament by the infernal compact they entered into. Historians tell us that among its even thousand houses were many stately palaces, furnished and adorned with great magnificence, and that beyond the city, far and wide, stretched the plantations which supplied the markets with fruit and vegetables, with groves and gardens wherein the fair Panamaians with their cabelleros were wont to resort in the cool of the day. There was a great hospital and a long line of buildings used by the opulent Genoese as a market house for their slaves; there were churches and monasteries and convents, all wonderfully rich in jeweled ornaments and altar pieces wrought by the fore-more artists of the time; and even the king's stables, where the beasts were kept that carried the gold and silver of Peru and Mexico to Porto Bello, were richer than the casas of today. But how are the mighty fallen! The place where the conquest of an empire was planned,

then the brightest jewel in the Castilian crown is now a dismal heap of ruins in the midst of a joyed, and the Savannah, a few miles out of pestilential swamp, inhabited only by snakes, town, where during the dry season the nabobs iguanas and alligators. Today one can find lew traces of former magnificence; here and there a turret or bit of walt overgrown to the top and twined over and over with a tangled mass of trees, bushes, vines and creepers. One at the north can form little idea of the tropic luxuriance in this not and humid asmosphe especially after two hundred years of undis-turbed growth. The watch tower of San Jereme is an example of this. It was built only six years before the city's destruction, in the form of a hollow square, 100 feet high. Now it is so wound around by woven vines that it can never fall, while trees and bushes grow on its summit, whose sturdy roots, running downward, have completely filled the entire inner space.

FANNIE B. WARD.

A household paper tells how "to get grease out of white marble." If anybody wants grease and other large corporations.

On the land side all is life, color and gayety.

There are officers in uniforms of scarlet and gold and soldiers in blue jackets and white beef is done.—Somerville Journal.

TRICKS OF THIEVES.

The Light-Fingered Portion of Washington's Population.

BUT FEW PROFESSIONALS

How the Confidence of Old Pensioners is Abused-The Despoilers of Hen Roosts-Folks Who Get Others Drunk To Rob Them.

HE Washington "crook" is an individual peculiar to himself. He is not as "fly" as his brethren in the crowded and cosmopolitan metropolis, nor is he as glib as those in Boston, but, in the language of the small boy, he generally manages to "get there just the same." I learned these and other interesting facts by frequenting the haunts of the local confidence men and thieves for over a week, during which time I mingled with them freely. ssumed their swagger and style and played the role of "good fellow." Among "crooked" people you must be either a chump or a good ellow. If the former, you are regarded with suspicion and distrust, but if you are esteemed as being in the latter category your light-fingered companions take you promptly into their confidence and relate their past experiences and plans for the future. The experience I had among these people forced the con-clusion upon me that the best way for the police authorities to "get down" to the crooks and their crookedness is by the employment of dummies, similar to the old London system. WATCHING THE DETECTIVES.

A well-known local confidence man, speaking on this subject, said that when a professional 'worker" reaches this or any other strange city he at once sets to work to "pipe off" the "fly cops" or detectives by photographing them on his memory and studying their ways and movements. This is called "getting them down fine" or "gilling the flys," and it is usually accomplished through the aid of some local friend. After the detectives have been well and truly "gilled" then the visiting crook is

ready to commence operations.

The light-fingered contingency of Washington can be divided into several classes. First there are the professionals, and it can be said that but few of this class abound here. Then the petty thieves, including hen-roost robbers, sneak thieves, pocket-book snatchers, till tappers, &c. This class is legion. Next are the pers, &c. This class is legion. Next are the "drunk workers," and last, but not least, the confidence men. The petty thieves mingle together by common consent apparently, and are mostly men who have "done time" either in the District jail or at Albany. I found them principally in the sin-swept alleys of certain sections of the city, in the slums and in the low

Many of the latter places are fences where much of the "swag" is disposed of for either money or liquor. The favorite fence of the Washington crooks is in Baltimore, the stolen property being taken thence by agents, who keep themselves without the atmosphere of police suspicion. These agents do not frequent the stamping ground of their customers, but hold forth in remote localities where the latter can go with impunity to dispose of their swag. A thief who would carry his stuff to a city pawn shop would be considered very green and giddy indeed. One of the Baltimore agents is said to be located near the Long bridge and another on the commons east of Lincoln park. "If the Washington people (police) could only get down to the Baltimore fences," said a weil-known crook who has thrice been "over

or forney ring to a horse and carriage, and you needn't go out of town to get them off, either." ROBBING PENSIONERS. Catching a pensione: or "touching a drunk" are favorite games of those crooks and confidence men who frequent the resorts contiguou: to the great stretch of parks extending from 1st street east to 15th street west. A pensioner s caught on pay day or on the few days succeding and the hook that catches him is usually baited with rum and flattery. fellow who is going to work the game usually as one or more confederates. He meets the old pensioner in a bar room or some other resort where liquor can be obtained and enters nto conversation with him. The old soldier is praised to the skies. This "game of talk," as it is termed in the language of the crook, is thickly punctuated with large drinks of

The fellows who are working the game, however, are careful to indulge in moderate doses and many of these are adroitly thrown into the spittoon. The pensioner has in most cases been with out money for some time-he is only paid once every three months-and he is therefore anxious to have a good time. His friends, the crooks, are willing to assist him in this. The old fellow sings with fervor "Marching Through Georgia" and other army tunes and his newfound friends join lustily in the chorus. If it is a fair day the latter propose a trip to one of the parks, where, unmolested, they can occupy a bench and talk and sing galore. In most cases the pensioner accepts the invitation and, with a pint bottle of whisky, they proceed to some secluded spot, and there are many of these in the city parks. Now the game is working in good shape. The next move, in the lanof the pensioner catcher, is to "make the old man dead to the world." This is accomplished with but little difficulty, for the old soldier is already pretty well saturated, and few more swigs from the bottle fixes him. Then he is promptly relieved of his pension money and whatever else of value he may have on his person, and the game is ended so far as the crooks are concerned. They disappear silently like phantoms, while their victim is stretched out on the bench to take an alcoholic slumber. The old pensioner is found by a jark watchman or some passer-by and turned over to the police. In the morning he awakes in a station house cell, shaky and moneyless, and nine times out of ten is taken to the Police

ourt and sent down for vagrancy. This game of catching a pensioner, and he is generally severely caught, is practiced every pension day, as the number of unfortunate old vets" in the alms house and work house will ittest. Many of the city crooks and confidence men look forward with as happy anticipation to pension day as the average child does to the coming of Christmas,

RELIEVING DRUNKEN MEN.

"Touching a drunk" is worked by the same nen who bait their hooks for pensioners, the only difference being that they are on the alert every night to do the "touching." This game s worked in several ways. A drunken found lying or sitting asleep in one of the parks is approached by the crook, who gives him a shake and in an imperative tone says: "Get up out of this or I will arrest you.

If the intoxicated individual does not respond at all or only answers with a grant or groan he is said to be "ripe" and the quasi watchman gives a signal for his friends to be on the lookout while he goes through his vic-If the latter does not happen to have much cash or many valuables about him he is often robbed of his entire wardrobe, from sole

If a man is not quite drunk enough to be touched" the crook proceeds to supply him with more liquor until he is drunk enough to be steered into a park or alley and relieved of his money, &c. The confidence men are, as a rule, well dressed. They are good talkers and prey principally upon strangers, rural ones pre-terred. They hang around hotels and bar ooms and are ever ready to escort visitors to the several points of interest in and about the city. They rarely "touch" a victim, but "work him for a borrow" after he is feeling pretty good under the influence of his drinks. It frequently happens that they succeed in "borrowng" all the money the stranger has about him. There are a great many of these well-dressed confidence workers in this city and they carry on their business with reckless openness, CHICKEN THIEVES.

The "hen roosters" or chicken thieves are namly colored men and boys. One of these told me that the best way to "swipe a roost" was to burn a pan of sulphur on the floor of the chicken house. This, he said would prevent the chickens from cackling or making

noise.
"Den," added the pullet snatcher, "you jess grab 'em one at a time an' gib dere necks a I asked him how he disposed of the dead chickens, but he would not tell me for some time. Finally he said they were taken to an old man across the Eastern branch who dressed them and brought the carcasses to market, where they were sold by himself and sons. He acknowledged that many of the fowls stolen from Washington and vicinity were disposed of in a like manner, while some were sold to unserproper the state of the stolen than the state of the st scrupulous city merchants.

STEALING FOR DRINK'S SAKE. The class of pilferers who fare the worst in this city are those unfortunates who steal to get money for strong drink. They are not experts and steal in such a bungling manner that W. T. GIVEN, cor 3d and H sts. n.w.

detection and punishment almost invariably follow. The shrewd, sharp, calculating thief drinks little. He keeps a clear head and has his wits well whetted all the time. Deputy Warden Russ of the District jail told me that he had in his long experience found but few successful and expert thieves who were addicted to the whisky habit. I found in my ramblings among the crooks many whicky thieves who among the crooks many whisky thieves who, after disposing of all their own property, would not hesitate to purloin anything else they could lay hands on in order to keep the alcoholic fire

within them burning.

BOGUS PORTERS. The stealing of articles from the sidewalk in ront of grocery and other stores is an art to which not a few colored men have devoted themselves. To accomplish this successfully the man who is going to do the stealing attires himself in the garb of a store porter and wears a white apron in order to avert suspicion, Then at the proper moment he picks up the box or package and walks leisurely down the street until a corner is reached. Turning this he quickens his pace until he is a safe distance away. Many dealers who have lost goods from their sidewalks of late can attribute the loss to am the sole agent for the Pasadena Wines and Brandies these bogus porters. The goods they steal are usually disposed of to small dealers in remote

sections of the city.

These are some of the games I worked up during my brief expedition among Washing-ton's crooks. To enumerate all would be to fill a good-sized book. Suffice it to say that there are many crooked people here, and they are as wary as a gray squirrel and as keensighted as an eagle.

HOME MATTERS.

Hints for the Household and Suggestions to Practical Housewives.

IT IS WELL TO KEEP PIECES OF CHARCOAL in damp corners and in dark places. THE PEANUT, SHELLED, has been introduced

at dinner parties instead of almonds. BOILING WATER should not be poured over tea tray, japanned goods, &c., as it will make

TO PREVENT CAKE ADHERING TO THE PAN when baked, scatter a little flour over the greased surface before pouring in the dough. It IS SAID THAT IF THE HANDS ARE RUBBED on a stick of celery after peeling onions the disagreeable smell will be entirely removed. STRONG MURIATIC ACID APPLIED WITH A CLOTH and the spot washed thoroughly with water is recommended to remove ink stains from boards.

TABLECLOTHS ARE AGAIN PLAIN, spotless spreads, while sheets are made with hemstatched edges and ruffles of lace or embroidery. WHEN MAKING CARE THE BUTTER should be creamed with the hand, but in the summer a wooden spoon may be used for this purpose, says Miss Maynard.

EAT COLD FOOD SLOWLY, is a warning from the wise, and cat sparingly of it, too. If you do eat cold food don't wash it down with ice

LEMON JUCE IS A GOOD THING for removing tan. It is also excellent for taking stains from the hands, and if applied to the hands at night will keep them soft and white. WHEN A DINNER IS GIVEN in honor of a special guest the compliment may be empha-

sized by using the calling card of the honored one in connection with the menu card, the two being secured with ribbons and flowers. THE NURSERY DOCTRESS PRESCRIBES two baths a day for baby, the soap and water one in the morning and vigorous massage after the evening dip; this, with all the cold water he will drink, loose clothing, a cool but perfectly

clean room and no handling, fondling or kissing, means to Mr. Baby ells of beauty and health and inches of growth a week. A GLUE WHICH WILL RESIST THE ACTION OF the road" to Albany, "they could uncover much of the property that has been touched here of late. The Baltimore fences are jim dandies. They will buy anything from a snide light brown give free from clouds or street. light brown glue, free from clouds or streaks, dissolve it in water and to every pint add onehalf gill of the best vinegar and one-half ounce of isinglass.

> A CORRESPONDENT OF THE HOUSEHOLD SAYS that a good way to wash a woolen hood is to dip it in gasoline, squeeze it but do not wring it, and after dipping it two or three times rub it between the hands, squeeze as dry as possible and hang it on the line. All this can be done in fifteen minutes. Never use gasoline near a stove or after lamplight, as it is very ex-

> CHILDREN SHOULD BE TRAINED TO EAT SLOWLY and chew the food well before swallowing it. Many a life of suffering has resulted from neglect just here. Mr. Gladstone is said to chew thirty times whatever he puts into his mouth before he swallows it. Food needs to be thoroughly mixed with saliva as well as to be chewed and crushed between the teeth, Food that is bolted irritates the stomach and impairs the digestive organs. PINEAPPLE JELLY.-Take a jar of canned

> pineapple, pound the contents, add 8 ounces of sugar and half a pint of water; boil the whole for a quarter of an hour, then strain through a wet napkin, add the juice of a lemon and a pint of clarified calf's foot or gelatine jeily. Pour into a mold, and when set turn it out by dipping the mold in warm water. Pieces of cut pineapple may be stirred among the

> SCALLOPED MACKEREL FOR BREAKFAST. - Boil a couple of salt mackerel over night, and, while still hot, remove all the bones and skin and flake the flesh. Simmer these trimmings for twenty minutes in water enough to cover them. Strain this liquor, and the next morning add to it enough new milk to make a good sauce, thickened with corn starch to the consistency of cream. Flavor with walnut catsup, grated lemon peel, nutmeg or mace and cayenne. Heat up the mackerel flakes in this sauce and serve.

> This is the Way a Boston journalist likes to have his cranberries cooked: Pierce each berry through with a large needle--not as large as a darning needle, but about No. 5. Put the cranberries into cold water with the amount of sugar intended to sweeten them and let them heat gradually to boiling. Stew until quite tender. Do not cover the kettle with a lid, but by all means let all the steam escape. Cooked carefully in this way they keep perfectly their form and beauty.

> CREAM PUFFS .- A correspondent writes to know how cream puffs are made. In various ways, one of which appeared in Home Matters last fall. Here is another way: Put one pint of boiling water in a smail sauce pan, add half a pound of butter; when melted put in a pint and a half of flour. Stir this in, being careful not to burn; when thoroughly mixed remove from the fire and cool; stir in five unbeaten eggs; bake on butter tins for twenty minutes, slices and drop in the cream. For the cream beat one egg, add half a cup of sugar and half a cup of flour; boil one pint of milk, stir in egg, sugar and flour, with a small piece of butter, stir until thick and flavor-extract of vanilla is preferable.

Written for THE EVENING STAR. "Sweet Violets." "Violets, sweet violets!" Well you know that they are near Ere the well-known cry you hear: "Violets, sweet violets!"

> "Violets, sweet violets!" Dressed in garments richer far Than the robes of princes are. "Violets, sweet violets!" "Violets, sweet violets!"

Ragged and unkempt he stands

With their beauty in his hands. "Violets, sweet violets!" "Violets, sweet violets!" You shall be tonight at rest

On my lady's snowy breast. "Violets, sweet violets!"

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